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COMOR-D-25/31

6 May 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance  
SUBJECT: Long-Range Reconnaissance Program  
for the Far East

For the information and consideration of the  
Committee there is attached a draft paper from the DIA. This  
subject will be placed on the agenda for consideration at the  
meeting of 10 May.

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James Q. Reber  
Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

Copies 2, 3 State TCO  
4 DIA (D/NIC)  
5 DIA  
6, 7, 8, 9 DIA TCO  
10 OACSI TCO  
11, 12 ONI TCO  
13, 14 AFNIN TCO  
15, 16 NSA TCO  
17, 18 NRO TCO

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NRO & DIA review(s) completed.

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Long-Range Reconnaissance Program for the Far East

1. Reference is made to USIB-D-41.14/23 (COMOR-D-25/23) of 2 April 1963.

2. Paragraph 4 of the reference promised the USIB a long-range estimate of photo coverage required in the Far East, to supplement the specific recommendations for the May/June 1963 period, and to provide long-range planning guidance to the USIB, the NRO, and OPCEN.

3. It is recognized that requirements in the Far East will change from time to time as circumstances change. While specific objectives are fairly constant, the urgency of any one area or the importance to be attached to coverage of any particular category of objectives, can be expected to vary over the course of several months. Hence any long range estimate of requirements must be understood as being nothing more than a general planning guide to give OPCEN an idea of the probable scope of operations, and to give the USIB, the NRO, and the intelligence community as a whole a basic idea of the amount of coverage they can reasonably expect to obtain. This estimate is not a specific request for coverage of any area; such requests are properly a matter for periodic submission by the COMOR upon the basis of current intelligence needs.

4. Our past experience with reconnaissance in the Far East indicates that we can divide the whole area into smaller areas which are characterized by a similarity in the type of intelligence required in the area, and the possibility of a good portion of the area's being covered, weather permitting, on one mission. These areas are:

a. China (See Tab A)

(1) Manchuria - Mainland China north and east of Peiping (North of 40 degrees N Lat and East of 115 degrees E Long).

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(2) North China - Generally the North Coastal Plain between Shanghai, Peiping, Pao Tou, and Wu Han.

(3) Central China - The area between area 2 above and the approximate limit of range at the Shuang Cheng Txu Missile-Test Range.

(4) Taiwan Strait Area - The area opposite Taiwan, bounded by a line between Shanghai, Wu Han, and Canton.

(5) The Szechwan Basin Area

(6) South China - The area adjacent to the border with Southeast Asia, bounded by a line from the tri-border junction of China/Burma/India, Hengyang, and Canton.

b. North Vietnam

c. Laos

d. North Korea

e. Tibet

5. The type of intelligence generally required, and the approximate frequency of coverage desired in each of these areas, is as follows:

a. China

(1) Manchuria - Strategic intelligence on economic, industrial, and transportation targets; air, ground, and naval order of battle; target materials up-date; [redacted] ground buildups along the North Korean border area.

Frequency: Semi-annual

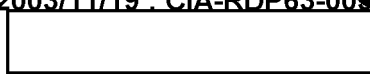
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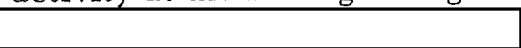
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(2) North China - Strategic intelligence on economic, industrial, transportation targets; air, ground, and naval order of battle; updating of target materials; 

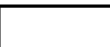

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Frequency: Semi-annual

(3) Central China - Developments and activity at the Shuang Cheng Tzu missile-test range,  air order of battle at Sian.


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Frequency: Quarterly

(4) Taiwan Strait Area - Ground, air, and naval order of battle; detection or confirmation of coastal deployment threatening to Taiwan;   



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Frequency: Bi-monthly (every two months), with 

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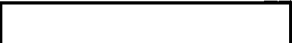
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 (Note: Much of this area is covered on route to other areas.)

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(5) Szechwan Basin 

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 air order of battle; target materials up-date; strategic intelligence on economic, industrial, and transportation targets.

Frequency: Quarterly

(6) South China - Changes to transport capabilities; air and ground order of battle, especially along the borders of Laos and Vietnam; update of target materials, detection of forces buildup.

Frequency: Bi-monthly

b. North Vietnam: Strategic intelligence on economic development; air, ground, and naval order of battle;

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transport routes in support of Laos and South Vietnam military operations; target materials up-date.

Frequency: Monthly

c. Laos: Ground Order of Battle; transport facilities, particularly from China and Vietnam; Laos corridor to South Vietnam; use as transit route to Thailand from China.

Frequency: Every 45 days

d. North Korea: Strategic intelligence on economic, industrial, and transport targets; air, ground, and naval order of battle; target materials update; detection or confirmation of troop movements threatening South Korea.

Frequency: Semi-annual

e. Tibet: Troop and supply movements, and ground order of battle relative to Indian border operations.

Frequency: Variable depending upon climate and future developments. At least monthly to act as early warning of large-scale buildups, until conflicts resolved.

6. If the above frequencies of coverage desired were displayed in a tabular fashion, with current approved missions taken into consideration, the result would be the following:

<u>AREA</u>	<u>FREQ</u>	<u>My</u>	<u>Jn</u>	<u>Jl</u>	<u>Ag</u>	<u>Se</u>	<u>Oc</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Dc</u>	<u>Ja</u>	<u>Fe</u>	<u>Mr</u>	<u>Ap</u>	<u>My</u>
Manchuria	SA	1						1						1
North China	SA						1						1	
Central China	Q			1			1			1			1	
Taiwan Strait	BM		1		1		1		1		1		1	
Szechwan Basin	Q	1			1			1			1			1
South China	BM	1		1		1		1		1		1		1
North Vietnam	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Laos	45 days	1	1		1	1		1	1		1	1		1
North Korea	SA		1						1					
Tibet	M	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals		9	5	4	5	4	5	6	5	4	5	4	5	6

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7. It is recommended that the COMOR approve this long-range estimate for forwarding to the USIB and to the NRO for planning purposes.

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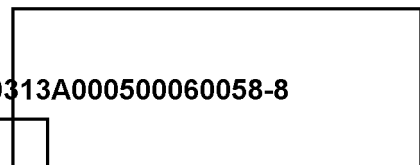
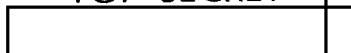


DIA/Joint Staff  
COMOR Member

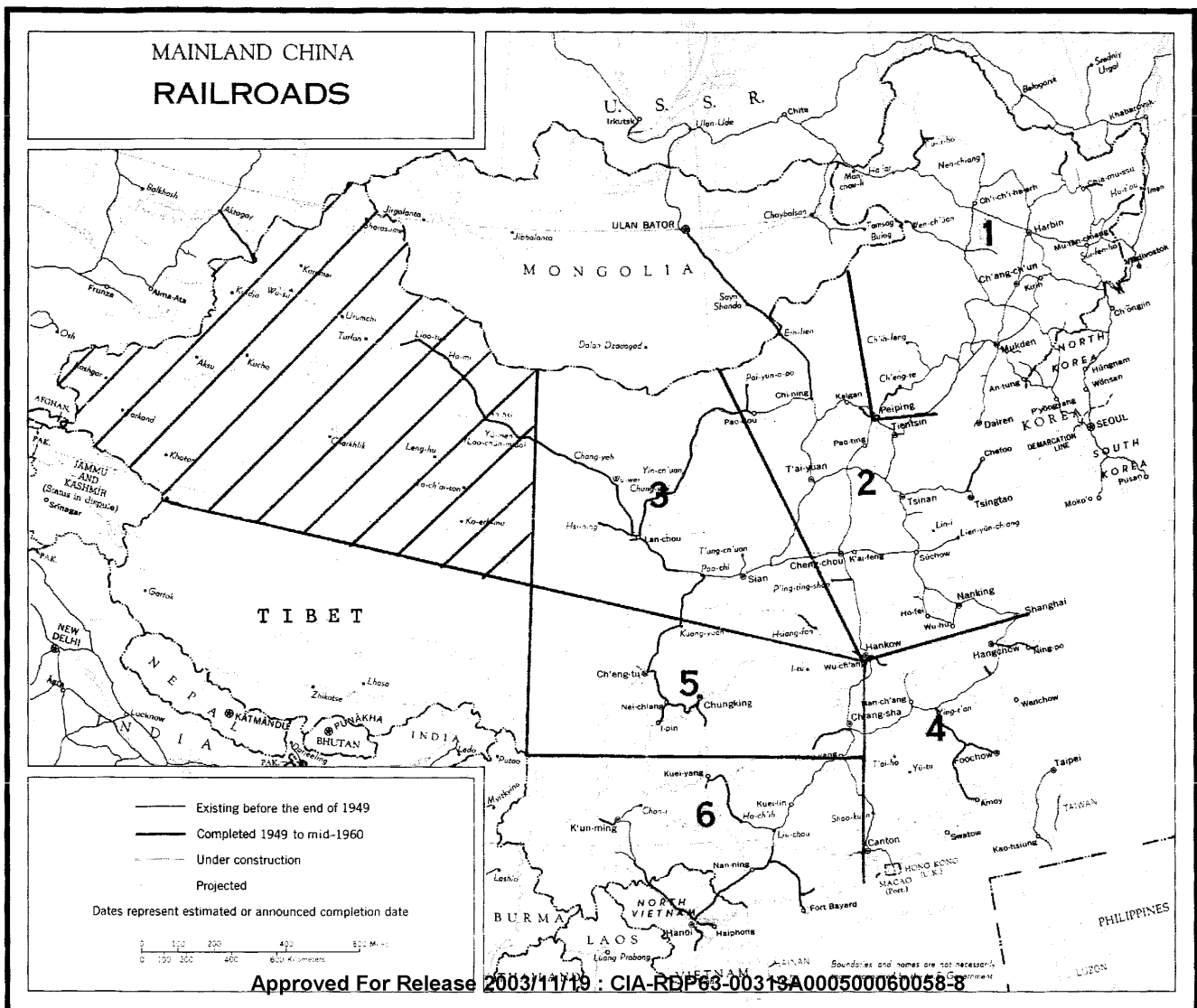
Attachment  
Tab A (map)

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CHINA RECONNAISSANCE OBJECTIVE AREAS



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TAB A

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	19, 20	Asst/OPS(NPIC)
	21	C/PID(NPIC)
	22	C/PSD(NPIC)
	23	C/CSD(NPIC)
	24	LS/PID(NPIC)
	25	TSO CIA
	26, 27	DDI TCO
	28-31	OSI TCO
	32	ORR TCO
	33	OCI TCO
	34	DDP TCO
	35	DDR TCO
	36	AD/OSA
	37	FA/OSA
	38	Intel/OSA
	39	SO/OSA
	40	SAL/OSA
	41	RB/OSA
	42-44	SA/DDR

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